MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 OCTOBER 1983

Lebanon

Arrangements for Dialogue, Cease-Fire — The "Dialogue Preparatory Committee" will meet on 12 October and the National Dialogue Committee will itself convene on 19 October in B'abda, Beirut radio announced on 10 October. However, while the radio said Syria and Saudi Arabia have accepted B'abda as the venue for the national dialogue, AFP subsequently reported that Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) has rejected holding the talks in B'abda and wants them to take place aboard a Greek ship. Meanwhile, the Security Arrangements Committee unanimously agreed to accept offers by Greece and Italy to provide observers to supervise the cease-fire, according to Beirut radio. Greece confirmed its willingness to send observers in an official statement broadcast by Athens radio. The Italian foreign minister likewise said Italy will consent to a "serious and workable" proposal to send an observer force if the plan is acknowledged by the United Nations, ANSA reported. The new developments concerning the dialogue and the cease-fire arrangements followed U.S. presidential envoy Robert McFarlane's talks with Syrian and Lebanese officials on 9 October, reported by Radio Monte Carlo and Beirut radio. The U.S. envoy did not hold a scheduled meeting in Damascus with PSP leader Junblatt, Radio Monte Carlo disclosed. Junblatt subsequently flew to Romania for talks with President Nicolae Ceausescu, Bucharest radio noted.

Security Situation — Internal security forces will be deployed in the Al-Kharrub region although this has not been implemented because the PSP has not yet approved the arrangements, Beirut radio reported on 9 October. The Phalangist Lebanese Forces declared their willingness to withdraw from the area, Voice of Lebanon radio announced the same day. Nevertheless, Beirut radio subsequently reported renewed clashes in Al-Kharrub and the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio said PSP forces killed two Phalangists in the district. In a separate incident, two U.S. Marines were wounded on 9 October, the Voice of Lebanon reported citing a U.S. spokesman.

PLO Affairs

Relations With Syria, Dissidents — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has spoken of "positive signs" that a PLO-Syrian clash is being averted, North Lebanon Voice of Palestine radio reported on 10 October. 'Arafat made the statement after receiving a message from Syrian Defense Companies commander Rif'at al-Asad, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Earlier, in an official statement carried by SANA, the Syrian Government dismissed 'Arafat's "baseless" claims that Syrian forces are besieging and preparing to attack the Palestinian camps in Tripoli and affirmed that Syria has no intention of fighting "anyone working in the Palestinian arena." Meanwhile, the Fatah dissident leaders met with the leaders of the PFLP, DFLP, and other Palestinian factions in Damascus on 8 and 10 October, according to Radio Monte Carlo. The dissidents called for a collective leadership for the PLO and all conferees condemned inter-Palestinian clashes, the radio said. Nevertheless, Fatah dissidents and loyalists clashed both in Damascus and near Tripoli on 10 October, according to the radio. The reported clash in the Syrian capital followed Damascus radio's announcement that cadres of the Palestinian Unified Information Department in Syria had declared their support for the "uprising" in Fatah. However, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio broadcast a statement by the department's staff claiming that "armed elements" had infiltrated and occupied their offices, detaining staff in a "terrorist" manner. Earlier, Damascus and Beirut radios reported that three PLO military battalions in Ba'labakk had joined the Fatah dissidents. The Palestinians were surrounded by Syrian forces, who have also prevented Palestinians from all PLO factions from entering Syria, according to PLO spokesmen cited by North Lebanon Voice of Palestine and Baghdad Voice of the Masses radios.

Diplomatic, Organizational Moves — Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah received Khalid al-Hasan, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, SPA reported on 9 October. Meanwhile, in an *Al-Qabas* interview cited by KUNA, 'Arafat called for a renewed Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue "as the basic entrance to settling the Palestinian and the Middle East questions." In Tunis, the newspaper *Al-Anwar* reported that the PLO is preparing to set up a central broadcasting station to relay programs throughout the Arab world, according to KUNA.

Syria

Responding to U.S. statements on the deployment of new Soviet missiles in Syria, Damascus radio said Syria has the right and duty to secure all means to defend its territory and will not be deterred by any threat. The radio wondered why the United States is concerned about the "possibility" that Syria may acquire sophisticated weapons while it does not worry about reports that Israel is manufacturing nuclear weapons. Another radio commentary said the U.S. disclosure regarding Soviet missiles obtained by Syria is part of a scheme to harm Syria and justify U.S. involvement in Lebanon and its supply of sophisticated weapons to Israel. Earlier, President Hafiz al-Asad told CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov in a cable broadcast by Damascus television that the Syrian-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty has proved its efficiency in resisting "imperialism and Zionism." In Israel, the daily *Ma'ariv* expressed skepticism that the Soviet Union will supply Syria with SS-21's equipped with nuclear warheads and said the United States may have been misled by a Soviet "disinformation" campaign.

Israel

The Knesset approved the Cabinet of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir — which retains Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon — by a margin of 7 votes on 10 October, Jerusalem radio announced. In a Knesset

speech prior to the vote broadcast by the radio, Shamir praised former Prime Minister Menahem Begin — absent from the session for health reasons — and viewed Begin's achievements including the treaty with Egypt and the elimination of PLO bases in southern Lebanon. The new prime minister indicated that it will not be possible to reach a settlement in Lebanon unless the joint accord is implemented and urged Syria to withdraw in order for Israel to feel safe enough to pull the IDF back across the border as there is "no absolute necessity" for the presence of Israeli forces in the country. Referring to the Soviet arms being supplied to Syria, Shamir urged foreign powers not to escalate the situation with their advanced military technology. As for the settlements and Palestinian issue, Israel again invites Egypt to enter into autonomy negotiations, as well as Jordanian and "Arab" representatives from "Judaea and Samaria," Shamir said. However, opening up Jewish settlements throughout Eretz Yisra'el is a "holy task" and must not be stopped, he declared. After a speech by Labor Party Chairman Shi'mon Peres broadcast by the radio criticizing Likud foreign and domestic policies, including the settlement policy, Shamir told the Knesset that he is still ready to work for a national unity government despite the opposition's criticism. Later the new Cabinet, meeting for 10 hours, decided to devalue the shekel by 23 percent and to raise the prices of basic commodities by 50 percent, the radio reported.

West Bank Settlements Issue

The increasing number of settlements in the West Bank prompted Egypt to add a new condition for the return of its ambassador to Tel Aviv, an Egyptian diplomat in Israel told Jerusalem radio. Israel must cease its settlements in the West Bank because at the present rate no more land will remain to negotiate over in accordance with the Camp David agreement, the envoy declared. In New York to address a women's conference, Israeli Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne announced that Israel will have to "think twice" before signing any peace treaty with an Arab country if Egypt does not return its envoy to Tel Aviv, according to the radio. Meanwhile, the Israeli paper *Davar* speculated that the increased settlements may drive Jordanian King Husayn to offer to enter negotiations with Israel over the Palestinian issue, thus opening the way for Jordan to receive U.S. military aid which has been withheld because of the lack of negotiations. Later in a speech at a dinner honoring his Romanian counterpart, Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran called the Israeli settlement policy a "harsh blow" to peace opportunities, according to the Amman paper *Ar-Ra'y*. Meanwhile, prospects for settlements in the Jordan Rift valley have been enhanced with the addition of a large amount of reclaimed arable land along the Jordan River, Jerusalem radio reported.

Kohl Visit

Following visits to Jordan and Egypt, FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl met with Saudi King Fahd to discuss the Middle East crisis, according to DPA. Like Jordanian King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, King Fahd urged European states to commit themselves more strongly to reviving the Mideast peace process. Earlier an FRG spokesman in Bonn cited by the news agency announced that Kohl wants to use his personal connections to start a new round of negotiations based on new Jordanian ideas. In a Cairo dinner speech reported by MENA, the chancellor declared that although the FRG cannot present or impose new solutions on the parties in the conflict, it can help to facilitate the negotiating process. He also urged the Arab states and Israel to acknowledge their mutual demands: the recognition of Israel's right to exist as well as of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Speaking at the same dinner, President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt will not abandon the Palestinian people and also declared that peace will not be achieved as long as the Palestinian issue is not resolved, MENA said.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Aid for Iraq — The five French Super Etendard jets promised earlier to Iraq landed at an Iraqi airfield on 9 October after taking off from a French airbase 2 days earlier, AFP and Paris radio announced. The following day a group of French technicians left for Iraq to assist in maintenance and training, the radio said. While both French Defense Minister Charles Hernu and Minister for External Relations Claude Cheysson refused to confirm or deny the report in remarks reported by the radio, a Tehran radio commentary denounced the transfer and warned France that Iran will turn the Strait of Hormuz into a "quagmire" if Iraq uses the jets to damage Iranian oil resources. Referring to the Iranian threats to close the strait, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper *Al-'Anba* cited by KUNA, stressed that Iraq will not permit Iran to continue to export its oil products while being denied the same right. Meanwhile, a source cited by Tehran radio condemned the expected delivery of U.S. military equipment to Baghdad following an official U.S. announcement taking Iraq off the U.S. arms sales blacklist. In the Tehran Friday prayer sermon broadcast by the radio, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i also warned the major powers that each missile supplied to Iraq destroys the relations between Iran and each nation providing the weapons.

Iraqi Official on Oil Pipeline — Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan announced that Iraq will be able to fully exploit its oil production as soon as negotiations on a gas pipeline through Turkey as well as expansion of the current oil pipeline through Turkey are completed, KUNA reported.

Libya

French Citizens Detained — Following the arrest of an alleged Libyan terrorist in Paris last week, Tripoli authorities detained 30 French nationals at the airport and prevented them from leaving the country even though all exit papers were in order, according to Paris radio. The French Ministry of External Relations has asked Libya to clarify its action, the radio said.

'Vengeance Day' Against Italy — Demonstrations, speeches, and demands for reparations for wartime damages marked the 13th anniversary of the Italian expulsion from Libya — "Vengeance Day." In a speech broadcast by Tripoli radio, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi demanded that Italy pay Libya for all the damages suffered while under Italian occupation. If the two countries cannot reach an agreement on this, he declared, then all Libyans who suffered losses during that time will be entitled to "avenge" themselves however they can. Meanwhile, the demand is being "carefully examined" by Italian authorities in consultation with

other allied governments amid hopes that Libya will not forget the links between the two countries, Rome radio's international service reported.

Chadian Conflict — Chadian President Hissein Habre expressed his satisfaction with the Franco-African summit in France and declared that the heads of state at the meeting had recognized the need to help Chad ensure its territorial integrity which to him means the withdrawal of foreign troops, AFP reported. Meanwhile, Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) President Goukouni Oueddei reiterated his call for the Chadian conflict to be resolved within the OAU, according to remarks reported by JANA. He also told AFP that he is "ready to go to Ndjamena to negotiate" with Habre as long as French forces allow GUNT units to go with him because he still doesn't trust Habre. Habre will not agree to hold "honest discussions" as long as French troops remain in Chad, the GUNT president declared.

Al-'Ubaydi on Sidra Inviolability — Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi told the UN General Assembly in a speech reported by JANA that due to continuing U.S. "provocations" in the Gulf of Sidra, the Libyan Air Force has been ordered "to strike at any target that violates Libyan territorial waters and airspace."

Algeria

A National Liberation Front delegation met with CPSU Central Committee Secretaries Konstantin Chernenko and Boris Ponomarev during a 3-day visit to Moscow, according to Moscow radio. In the joint communique carried by TASS and APS, both sides praised the relations between Algeria and the USSR, urged Israel to pull out of Lebanon, and stressed the need for an international Middle East conference which would include the PLO in order to find a just solution to the crisis.

Pakistan

As disturbances continued in Sind Province, an antigovernment crowd clashed with police in the Baluchistan capital of Quetta, the first serious incident outside Sind Province, according to AFP. A Quetta district magistrate's press note reported by Karachi radio claimed that the police had returned fire in "self-defense" after the "violent" crowd had attacked them. Meanwhile, 15,000 people gathered in the hitherto quiet Punjab city of Faisalabad to watch the voluntary arrest of a member of the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, AFP reported. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq continued to insist that the domestic situation is satisfactory except for a few "isolated" incidents in one province, according to the paper *Nawa-e Waqt*.

Afghanistan

In an interview with BAKHTAR, a Foreign Ministry spokesman denied Pakistani claims that DRA aircraft bombed Pakistani border villages while chasing rebel forces last week and linked the accusations with current Pakistani domestic unrest and the recent visit to Pakistan by U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. As clashes between rebel forces and Soviet-DRA Government troops continue, rebel bands are beginning to struggle among themselves over the division of U.S. financial aid, BAKHTAR claimed.

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Pakistani Allegation of Border Violation Rejected
LD081804 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Text] The authorities of the Islamabad military regime, continuing their periodic propaganda campaign, have again alleged that military aircraft belonging to the DRA have flown over Pakistani territory and dropped bombs on regions on the other side of the border.

A spokesman of the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, quoting the DRA Ministry of National Defense, contacted BAKHTAR agency and totally rejected these unfounded and baseless lies and fabrications.

The Pakistani military regime, quaking at the unprecedented flood of anger of the people of Pakistan, is embarking on nonsensical accusations against the DRA.

This is not accidental; the extended wave of struggle of the Pakistani people for freedom and democracy and against the general's government is no longer confined to Sind Province and has rapidly spread to Punjab, Baluchistan, and all Pakistan.

The general's regime is striving ridiculously hard to manufacture pretexts and documents with which to suffocate the popular movement of the people of Pakistan [words indistinct] and to divert the attention of the people of Pakistan and the world from the deep crisis in Pakistani society toward self-manufactured, unfounded, and baseless issues.

On the other hand, Weinberger's visit to Pakistan, his seditious remarks about the DRA and the role he openly allotted to Pakistan in the interests of U.S. strategy, all of which has exposed the security of the region to serious danger, should be explained.

The general's regime in Islamabad cannot conceal its antipopular nature and its role as a springboard for the undeclared war against the DRA by the fabrication of such lies.

Such unfounded and fabricated accusations can neither save the rgeime from the anger of the people of Pakistan nor hide the role played by the military regime of Pakistan as (? the servant) of U.S. imperialism to (? safeguard) its interests in the region against peace and [word indistinct] and neighbors, in particular against the DRA.

The recent provocative and fabricated accusations by the general's regime have no truth and we fully and decisively reject them.

BAKHTAR Account
LD090714 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Text] Kabul, oct 8, BAKHTAR — In pursuit of its periodical provocative propaganda, the military regime of Islamabad has alleged once again as if the aircraft of the Armed Forces of the DRA have crossed the airspace of Pakistan and have bombarded the areas across the border.

Relying on the information of the Ministry of National Defence of the DRA, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA in an interview with BIA strongly refuted the baseless and slanderous allegations recently fabricated by the military regime of Pakistan.

The military regime of Islamabad which has been totally shaken against the flood of wrath and indignation of the Pakistani people has intensively resorted in these days, to insensible and loose talks against the Government of the DRA.

It is not accidental that the widespread struggle launched by the people of Pakistan for the restoration of democracy and against the government of generals has now engulfed the whole of Pakistan in a faster pace contrary to the imagination of the military ruler and his U.S. masters.

The regime of generals is making ridiculous attempts to find pretexts for ruthless suppression of the movement of the people of Pakistan, to distract the attention of Pakistani people and the world from the profound crisis prevailing all over Pakistan to the baseless issues forged and fabricated to justify its survival.

The military regime of Pakistan makes a futile attempt too, to justify the visit of Weinberger to Pakistan, his virulent statements against the DRA, the role it is playing in the strategic interests of the United States all of which lead to seriously jeopardize the security of the region.

However, the regime of generals in Islamabad cannot camouflage its oppressive and anti-people character and the role it plays as a springboard of the undeclared war against the DRA.

Such futile and forged charges will neither save the Pakistani military regime from the wrath of Pakistani people nor can it cover the role it plays as a handmaid of U.S. interests and as a stooge of the U.S. imperialist policy against its neighbours, first of all, the DRA and peace and stability in the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA has totally and vehemently rejected the provocative and mendacious accusations of the military regime of Pakistan.

Keshtmand Speaks at Kabul Province Meeting 6 Oct
LD071137 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Oct 83

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, this morning paid a visit to (Shana) village, Deh Sabz District, Kabul Province, during which he saw samples of assorted weapons which, as a result of the heroic operations of our heroic Armed Forces and of the limited contingents of the heroic and liberating Army of the Soviet Union, were seized from various villages in Deh Sabz District, Kabul Province. He then took part in a meeting of officers and troops of the armed units and of people from these villages.

During his visit, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand was accompanied by Lieutenant General 'Abdol Qader, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA minister of national defense; Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, minister of the interior; Brigadier General Nazar Mohammad, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense; (Nea'matollah), head of the Central Zone; the secretary of the party for Kabul Province; and the governor of Kabul.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that during the visit, the deputy commander of the 8th Division spoke in connection with the weapons seized from the counterrevolutionary elements. He said: As a result of a series of mopping-up operations to clear various areas of counterrevolutionary elements, once again the DRA Armed Forces, our heroic and courageous officers and troops, with the cooperation of the units of the friendly forces, attacked the hiding places of the enemies in (Kogamand), Shashan mountains, (Jorgara), (Safi), and the (Samaji) villages of Deh Sabz District. A number of counterrevolutionaries were captured and the others were crushed and their weapons seized.

He said a large number of medical stores and arms catches of the counterrevolutionary elements were destroyed and a number of weapons which were seized from them were brought here to be put on show.

The weapons which bear the marks of China, Italy, Egypt, West Germany, the United States, and Britain, include 29 (Zicodos), 29 (DSHK's), 18 mortars, 5 recoiless rifles, 17 rocket launchers, 200 assorted rifles, assorted machineguns; 20 tons of ammunition for the aforementioned weapons, 130 antitank mines, hundreds of antipersonnel mines; mortar shells and rockets; 7 communication units; 3 typewriters, loudspeakers, gas masks, and 5 tons of other equipment.

Some 85 people were captured during the operation.

Speaking on behalf of the units involved in this victorious operation, the deputy commander of the 8th Division assured Soltan 'Ali Kestmand, and through him Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, that the DRA Armed Forces will fight to the end and defend every inch of the sacred homeland and will clear the beloved homeland of the filthy counterrevolutionary elements.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that at the end of this visit Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand and his entourage attended a meeting of the officers and heroic troops who scored great victories in the operation to clear the rebels, and of the toiling people of the various region of Deh Sabz District, Kabul Province, held in (Shana) village. Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand congratulated the brave officers and men and the people of this district on this great victory.

Addressing the audience, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand in his speech at the beginning of this meeting said:

Dear compatriot brethren: I am delighted to be among you here today and to note another victory of the heroic Armed Forces of the country with the cooperation of all revolution defense groups; we can see your feelings of satisfaction and joy over this victory and success.

We are aware of the pains, difficulties, and misery imposed on you, the people, by the criminals, robbers, thieves, and plundering rebels. We are very well aware of how you have been prevented from work, a comfortable and peaceful life, under the pressure of these useless, treacherous, and hireling elements who betrayed the country. But now the region has been cleared of the enemies, plunderers, thieves, and murderers.

Now it is your duty, dear brethern, you elders, you noble residents of the villages and hamlets, to defend your honor, land, property, freedom, the product of work and of the efforts of your life, and to cooperate fully with the local, party and government organs.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand added: As far as our party and government organs are concerned, we are always ready to defend in the future also your rights, honor, and freedom. Your freedom and security are being restored through enormous sacrifice and heroism. However, under any circumstances, the fundamental and major issue is your full and constant cooperation. You can see yourself what lethal and dangerous weapons have been imported to our land by these enemies of the homeland and elements threacherous to the country, from imperialist countries such as the United States, China, Egypt, Pakistan, and so forth, to disrupt the peaceful and tranquil atmosphere, to murder our people and to carry out plunder in our land. On the contrary, it is our friend and our brethern, the Soviet Union, which has given all-round assistance to secure freedom and a peaceful life for our people.

The BAKHTAR correspondent added: His speech was welcomed with enthusiasm and continuous applause.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand added: We are determined to crush the last remnant of resistance of the counterrevolutionaries and to restore a peaceful atmosphere for work and tranquil lives for our people with their cooperation and their efforts. Our revolution is invincible.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand expressed satisfaction at meeting the noble inhabitants of Deh Sabz District and said: I am congratulating you on this victory and success which has brought you peace, and I wish you further victories. I am hoping that you will join each other and with all your energy cooperate with all party and government forces who are your brethern so that the enemy can never again disrupt your peace and tranquillity here, so that permanent and satisfactory peace can be secured in your regions.

The correspondent added: At the end of the meeting, one of the elders spoke on behalf of the noble and toiling people of the villages and hamlets of Deh Sabz District and gave assurances to Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand that they would not spare any sacrifice and devotion for the complete elimination of the enemies of the revolution, party, and government.

At the end of this meeting, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand commended and presented gifts to a number of the Afghan officers and men

who displayed heroism in the operation to clear the region of the rebels.

Supreme Court Chairman Gives Figures on Amnesties
LD081408 Prague CTK in English 1042 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Text] Kabul (CETEKA correspondent) [no date as received] — Some 15,000 people imprisoned during the Hafizollah Amin regime and 2,700 others who committed offences against the interests of the state and revolution in the last three years have been amnestied in Afghanistan since the start of the second stage of the April revolution.

The figures have been given to the CETEKA correspondent here by Nezamoddin Tahzib, chairman of the Supreme Court of Afghanistan.

The foremost task of the Afghan judiciary is to protect the social and political system of the country and punish attacks against state, cooperative, private and personal property, Nezamoddin Tahzib stated.

The humane character of the Afghan judiciary is manifested not only by the large number of pardons but also by the decision of the Revolutionary Council not to punish those members of anti-social groups who voluntarily surrender to the authorities. However, the judicial bodies take uncompromising action against persons who continue terrorist activities and sabotage, the court chairman stated.

Karachi Cites Industrial Closings, Mujahidin Clash
BK081017 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, a number of industrial units in various areas are being closed due to a shortage of raw materials and manpower. In Qonduz Province, the Shirkat Vegetable Ghee factory has been closed for a long time. An edible oil freezing gas plant is also closed because the Soviet forces fear that in the event of mujahidin attacks, the gas available in the pipeline may prove hazardous for the whole factory. Other industrial units closed so far are situated in the Gulbahar, (Chazichandi), Baghlan, (Filistingi), and Mazar-e-Sharif areas.

Meanwhile, there has been a clash between the Soviet-Karmal forces and the mujahidin in the Panjwai subdivision of Qandahar Province. The clash took place when the Soviet-Karmal forces forcibly caught 70 youths to draft into the Army. Most of them were freed by the mujahidin.

Kabul: British Papers Admit Bodman was UK Spy
LD102025 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Text] British newspapers in London today admitted that Stuart Bodman, who was killed last month in the DRA together with a group of counterrevolutionary smugglers, was on a spying mission and was using an information company as a cover for his mission.

REUTER news agency, quoting the front page story of *Daily Mirror* newspaper published in London, says: The British intelligence serviceis famous for using freelance agents, and Stuart Bodman was one of these. This British spy, who was carrying documents bearing the name of Gulf Features Service Ltd, was killed last July. The *Daily Mirror* adds that the espionage company of Gulf Features Ltd was established at the beginning of this year by two wealthy businessmen. The paper writes that the aim of this company is to collect espionage reports and records. Two directors of this company, Sir Edgar Beck and John Banks, yesterday refused to comment on the reports.

Another British newspaper, *The Express*, yesterday wrote that the killed man had connections with the intelligence collecting company, which was established by two million British industrialists.

General Rafi' Receives PLO Ambassador 11 October
LD110702 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 11 Oct 83

[Text] Kabul, October 10, BAKHTAR — General Mohammad Rafi', member of Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA and deputy-chairman of the council of ministers of the DRA, received in his office today Khalid Abdullah Ramazan, ambassador of Palestine Liberation Organisation for a courtesy call.

Condolences Expressed to ROK Over Rangoon Deaths
BK091558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Text] The president, the prime minister, and the external affairs minister have expressed shock over the death of the foreign minister of the Republic of Korea and others.

In her condolence message, Mrs Gandhi described the Rangoon tragedy as a great calamity and an act which deserved to be condemned.

Mr Narasimha Rao called at the Korean Embassy in New Delhi and expressed his condolence. In a message he said: We are deeply shocked to learn of this act of violence. The Government and people of India feel deep anguish and horror. This becomes particularly poignant as we have been looking forward to receiving the president, Mr Chon Tu-Hwan, and his delegation in New Delhi later this week.

Government Protests PRC Reference to Sikkim
BK110312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Oct 83

[Text] India has protested to China against its news media describing Sikkim as a foreign country. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the government has noted with regret the inclusion of Sikkim in a list of foreign countries circulated by the official Chinese news agency — XINHUA — in a report.

The spokesman said that Chinese authorities have been told that Sikkim is an integral part of India. The report is all the more regrettable because the fourth round (?of) Sino-Indian talks on the border and other issues is scheduled for later this month.

Spokesman Welcomes Soviet Disarmament Proposal
BK071416 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Text] India has welcomed the recent Soviet proposal for disarmament. Responding to a question, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that India welcomes all proposals directed toward disarmament, especially in the nuclear field, under effective international control. We have closely followed the Soviet proposals on the subject including the present one, he added.

Punjab, Chandigarh Declared 'Disturbed Areas'
BK071615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Excerpts] The whole of Punjab and Chandigarh have been declared as disturbed areas. The action has been taken by the respective governments under the powers conferred on them by Punjab disturbed area and Chandigarh disturbed area ordinances promulgated by the president earlier. The ordinances have come into force immediately.

The West Bengal governor, Mr B.D. Pande, has been transferred to Punjab. According to an official spokesman, the Punjab governor, Mr A.P. Sharma, will take over as governor of West Bengal.

In a statement in Chandigarh, the former Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, said for the past some time, the state has been passing through a difficult political and administrative situation on account of prolonged Akali agitation and the activities of the extremists. He said the state government earnestly tried to cope with the situation on one hand and to step up a tempo of development on the other. He said the recent violence directed against a particular community has convinced him that strong measures like the central rule were required to deal with the latest developments. Mr Darbara Singh urged all the secular and nationalist forces to unitedly defeat the nefarious designs of communal forces.

The imposition of president's rule in Punjab has been welcomed by almost all sections of society. There has been a general feeling that the center's decision is timely.

The response to the call for a bundh [strike] in Punjab and Chandigarh today to protest against the killing of eight persons in two incidents was almost total. A Punjab Government spokesman said the bundh was 80 to 90 percent effective all over the state. He said there was no report of tension from anywhere and all sections of society participated in the bundh. The call for the bundh was given by the Bharatiya Janata Party and endorsed by the Akali Dal.

Police Official Kidnapped at Sikh Golden Temple
BK081624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Text] In Amritsar, an assistant superintendent of jails, who had gone to the Golden Temple to offer prayers this afternoon, was forcefully taken by some armed men to Guru Nanak Niwas where Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindernwale is staying. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the assistant superintendent was, however, released after 3 hours following intervention by the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee [management committee of Sikh religious places].

Most Shops in Delhi Closed Following Strike Call
BK100915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Oct 83

[Text] Most shops in Delhi are closed today in response to a call for a bundh [strike] to protest against the killings of innocent people in Punjab. However, buses, taxis, and auto-rickshaws were plying as usual. But in some areas the traveling public is perceptively less than usual. Banks are open and so are several schools.

The call for the bundh has been given by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] and has been endorsed by the Akali Dal. Addressing a rally in the afternoon, the BJP leader, Mr Vijay Kumar

Malhotra, demanded stern action against extremists and urged the Akali Dal to withdraw its agitation.

In Haryana, the call for the bundh today evoked partial response. No untoward incidents have been reported so far. The bundh has been called by the BJP and the Lok Dal.

Police Break Up Demonstrations in Haryana

BK090939 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Text] In Haryana, police had to use tear gas in Jagadhri to disperse a violent group indulging in stone throwing. The group was taking out a procession in violation of the prohibitory orders.

In Jamunanagar also, police used tear gas to disperse two clashing groups.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the situation in both the towns is now fully under control. About 20 persons have been arrested.

AFP: 20 Police Battalions Move Into Punjab 10 Oct

BK110833 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 11 Oct 83

[By Joel Henri]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Oct. 11 (AFP) — Twenty battalions of Indian federal police moved to Punjab last night amid press reports that neighboring Pakistan has been arming Sikh extremists who are demanding autonomy. The independent *Times of India*, quoting an unnamed oficial source, said: "The militants could have embarked on a major insurgency operation."

Diplomats in New Delhi however have expressed skepticism with the *Times* report, which was not mentioned in the capital's six other newspapers.

Up to now the only arms to appear among Sikh extremists have dated back to the World War I except for some sten-guns — British sub-machine guns from the 1940's.

The deployment of new security forces added to those already sent to Punjab on October 6, after a state of emergency was declared in this strategic north west Indian state, still indicates that the situation remains volatile, commentators noted.

Opposition Conclave in Srinagar Concludes

Political Solution for Punjab Urged

BK071627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Text] The 3-day meeting of opposition parties ended in Srinagar today with a call for immediate steps to resolve the Punjab issue. In a resolution adopted today, the opposition parties expressed deep concern over the deteriorating situation in the state. They strongly condemned the acts of violence and urged the people of the state to maintain their proud record of communal amity. They said that the imposition of the president's rule cannot solve the problem and the need of the hour is a political solution. The meeting urged the center to take effective steps to resolve the long-standing issues to ensure normalcy, peace, and amity. Extending their full cooperation to the center in resolving the issue, the opposition leaders said the reconvening of the tripartite meet would help find a solution to the problem.

In another resolution, the opposition leaders expressed concern over the allegedly undemocratic practice of toppling non-Congress-I governments. The resolution said any attempt to disregard will be firmly resisted by mobilizing public opinion. [sentence as heard]

Recommendations Detailed

BK080934 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Text] The opposition conclave in Srinagar has made a number of suggestions for restructuring center-state relations. The suggestions relate to political, financial, and administrative matters. The main resolution adopted by the conclave, which ended its deliberations yesterday, feels that these changes are necessary for proper balance of power between states and the center.

The resolution says that to preserve the multireligious, multilingual, and multifaceted character of the country, the states should have more autonomy.

The resolution, released by the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, at a news conference this morning, welcomed the appointment of the Sarkaria commission, but it felt that it is inadequate for the requirements of the situation. The conclave wanted a curtailment of, what it called, arbitrary powers of the center relating to dismissal of elected state governments, dissolution of assemblies and peremptory decisions regarding holding or nonholding of elections.

Some of the important suggestions of the conclave are: Governors should be appointed only in consultation with the concerned state governments, elections should be held within 6 months in case of a constitutional breakdown in a state, and prior consent of the state should be obtained before deploying the central police force. It wanted review and amendment of several articles of the Constitution.

Other economic and administrative suggestions include central plan assistance be treated as grants and not as loans, the setting up of a judicial council, and a statutory central communication council for radio and television.

Our special correspondent, Dipesh Chandra Bhowmick, also reports from Srinagar that the Congress-J had expressed its reservations on certain issues, particularly the recommendation relating to deployment of the central police force and on the appointment of judges and allocation of funds to the states.

The resolution is being sent to the prime minister. The next conclave is to be held in Calcutta in December or early January.

Party Officials Comment

BK081633 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Text] The Congress-I general secretary, Mr C.M. Stephen, has charged the opposition conclave with giving political respectability to the worst crime against humanity committed by the extremists in Punjab. Reacting to the conclave resolution on Punjab, Mr Stephen said while the Akali Dal has provided political cover to these murderers, the conclave preferred to give it political respectability.

Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr Stephen said nobody knows why extemists in Punjab are killing people. Whether it is in support of the Akali demands or in support of a separate Khalsa state or to foment communal passion, but, he said, it is most regretable for the conclave to link the political demands of the Akalis and murders.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh [State] Congress-I general secretary, Mr Malik Mohiuddin, has described the opposition meeting as an attempt on the part of the state government to divert the attention of the people from the burning problems the state is facing. Mr Mohiuddin told newsmen in Srinagar today that the meeting was meant to browbeat the center.

Two Rajya Sabha members, Mr Yogendra Sharma and Mr G.C. Bhattacharya, have alleged that the conclave has helped intensification of extremist activities in Punjab. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, they appealed to opposition parties to demarcate themselves from the forces working for disintegration and to defend the country from internal and external subversion. They said there is no use of any tripartite talks in Punjab unless the Akalis and their associates totally disassociate themselves from the extremists and stop using religious places for carrying on separatist and violent activities.

In a separate statement, the president of the Akali Dal, Master Tara Singh group, Jathedar Rachhpal Singh, welcomed the imposition of president's rule in Punjab. He said the killing of innocent people is contrary to the preachings of gurus and, in a way, a defiance of the principles laid by them. In another statement the secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr Krishanlal Sharma, has demanded the immediate arrest of culprits responsible for the shooting incidents and stern action against extremists.

Zia Meets With Jamiat-ul-Ulema Leaders 10 October

BK101727 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Oct 83

[Text] Leaders of defunct Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Pakistan [JUP] led by Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani met President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. Detailed discussions were held on the announced program of the establishment of representative institutions in the country in the light of the president's speech of 12 August and communications sent to the president by the leaders of the defunct JUP.

During the discussion, the president gave the information that in the next few days meetings with leaders of certain other defunct political parties will be held, the dates for which in some cases have already been fixed.

In the talks, which lasted for about 3 and 1/2 hours in a cordial atmosphere, the president was assisted by the defense minister, Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur; the finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan; the information minister, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq; the interior minister, Mr Mahmood A. Haroon; and Lieutenant General K.M. Arif. Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani was accompanied by Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, Shah Faridul Haq, Sayed Bakr Ahmed, retired Lieutenant General K.M. Azhar.

JUP President Cites 'Progress'

BK111029 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 Oct 83

[Text] The president of the defunct Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Pakistan, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, has said that his party and the government are keen to resolve the present situation that has developed in the country. He said this while addressing a news conference in Islamabad this morning.

He said the talks held by the party's five-member delegation led by him with the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, last evening had made progress. The initiation of these talks and the proposed talks by the president with other defunct political parties was itself indicative of the progress. This, he said, was a step forward.

He said during their 3 and 1/2 hour discussion with the president they stressed every point of their agenda. The president, he said, listened to their viewpoint with great patience. He said the president told them that he would have similar talks with other defunct political parties and try to reach a consensus. He said the defunct parties listed by the president included Jamiat-i Islam, Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Islam — Maulana Darkhasti group — Muslim League, Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, Pakistan Democratic Party, National Democratic Party, and Pakistan People's Party.

Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani emphatically stated that the agitation in Sind was not a secessionist movement. He said his party deplores the subversive and disruptionist activities in the province. He said a joint session of his party's central executive and general council has been called by him on 24th of this month at Lahore to discuss its future program.

Ziaul Haq Receives Iranian Deputy Prime Minister

BK081549 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Sep 83

[Excerpt] Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Mirza Taheri called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. Later, at a news conference in Islamabad, he said he exchanged views with the president on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest. Mirza Taheri said his visit to Pakistan is a clear example of the excellent relations between the two countries. He also apprised the president of the work being done to repair the Nowruz oil well, which was causing an oil slick in the Gulf. He said Iranian engineers have now brought the oil slick under control and there is no threat to marine life in the region.

Karachi: Indian Leaders Continue To Meddle

BK070744 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Oct 83

[Text] Indian leaders continue to meddle in Pakistan's internal affairs despite sharp criticism in Pakistan as well as among the same circles in India itself. According to the leading Indian dailies, the concensus at a roundtable discussion on Pakistan held in New Delhi recently is that India should not hesitate in expressing its support to and sympathies with the agitators in Pakistan. Participants at the roundtable included politicians like Mr Chandra Shekhar, president of the Janata Party; Mr P.N. Haksar, former principal adviser to Mrs Gandhi; and Mr P.R. Baghat, former speaker of the Lok Sabha. Armymen like Lieutenant General J.S. Arora and diplomats like I.K. Gujral and Mr Khub Chand also took part in the discussion.

Mr Chandra Shekhar openly expressed support for the agitators and said we should not feel hesitant about expressing our support just because someone might mind it. He suggested that India should go right ahead and provide support not in accordance with the strength of the movement but the weakness of the system.

Mr Haksar went further and questioned even the existence of Pakistan as a nation. He said Pakistan had no history and its ruler had to invent one. In fact, Pakistan has nothing of its own and the nation was sought to be built on a series of myths. Mr P.R. Baghat in his observations gave expression to India's ill will to see more trouble in Pakistan. He said let us pray that Punjab also joins the movement. Retired General Arora harped on the tune of anti-India feelings in Pakistan and emphasized the need for military preparedness. His advice was: Let us give our sympathy to the movement there, but at the same time let us keep our powder dry.

Mr I.K. Gujral, who once served as India's ambassador to Moscow, gave vent to his wishful thinking by speaking about the breakup of Pakistan. He said it was immaterial whether India spoke out in support of the movement or keeps quiet, because there were other forces which were already working in Pakistan. Mr Khub Chand, towing the line of General Arora and Mr Gujral, discussed how India should react if Pakistan split again. His suggestion was that India should try to maintain its military superiority and, if Pakistan broke up, India should be prepared to adjust itself to the new situation.

UN To Be Informed of Airspace Violation by Afghanistan

BK071537 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Text] Pakistan is to inform the United Nations about the violation of its airspace in the southern Waziristan area on Tuesday by six aircraft of the Karmal regime. A Foreign Office spokesman told the Radio Pakistan representative today that the Pakistani ambassador at the United Nations has been instructed to contact the UN secretary general to inform him of this incident. The Pakistani ambassador has also been instructed to request of the United Nations that Pakistan's complaint be circulated as documents of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

You might recall that Pakistan lodged a strong protest with Afghanistan's charge d'affaires in Islamabad over the recent airspace violations and asked him to inform the Karmal administration that such violations are highly regrettable and should not be repeated.

Yaqub Khan Talks With UN Officials on Afghan Issue

BK110658 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Oct 83

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has had a second meeting with Secretary General Perez de Cuellar at the UN Headquarters. They had a further exchange of views on the Afghanistan issue. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has reaffirmed that Pakistan is committed to pursue UN efforts for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue based on principles that have already been agreed upon. In this context, he assured Perez de Cuellar of Pakistan's full cooperation.

ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN citing Pakistani authorities reported that during his meeting with the foreign minister, the secretary general stressed the importance of continuing the diplomatic process to maintain progress in indirect Geneva talks on Afghanistan. A UN spokesman has said that Perez de Cuellar is preparing a plan for resuming negotiations with all concerned parties to establish a solid foundation for continuing the diplomatic process.

After having talks with the secretary general, the Pakistani foreign minister had a meeting with Diego Cordovez, the personal representative of Perez de Cuellar on Afghanistan.

Resolution on Afghanistan Submitted to ICO Meeting

BK110750 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Oct 83

[Text] Pakistan has presented a draft resolution on Afghanistan to the Islamic foreign ministers conference in New York. The ad hoc committee of the Islamic Conference Organization on Afghanistan has already ratified the draft.

Speaking on the draft resolution, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that despite its limitations, we hope the diplomatic process initiated by the UN secretary general on Afghanistan will help in pursuading the Soviet Union to terminate its intervention in Afghanistan. He said that as in the past, the entire Islamic world as well as the UN members in this regard should maintain their moral pressure in support of the basic principles that should be the basis for a just political settlement of the Afghanistan issue.

AFP Notes Opposition, Police Clash in Baluchistan

OW072214 Paris AFP in English 2136 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Text] Islamabad Oct 6 (AFP) — One person was killed and several others injured when an opposition crowd clashed with police in the Balushistan capital Quetta today, official sources said.

Today's demonstration, called by the eight opposition parties of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) was the first serious incident outside Sind Province, where the anti-martial law campaign has already claimed over 100 lives.

Observers noted that the MRD had partially succeeded in spreading the civil disobedience campaign outside its Sind stronghold after a seven-week lapse.

As trouble-torn Sind experienced calm for the past three days, the MRD agitating for civil liberties and Lifting of six year old martial law of President Gen Mohammad Ziaul haq managed to muster support of thousands of anti-government lawyers who yesterday staged a peaceful demonstration in the Punjab capital of Lahore.

The gathering was seen as the first opposition success in Punjab, The thickly populated richest Pakistani province which earlier ignored successive opposition calls for general strike.

The MRD's new entrant left-wing Pakistan National Party (PNP), drawing support in Balushistan and a Baluch nationalist group, Pakhtoon Khawa Nap, led by Mehmud Khan Achakzai, today led a procession from the main mosque in Quetta after mid-day prayers.

The processionists were, however, stopped by police but the crowd resisted resulting in an exchange of fire, local sources said.

The sources said that militant Pakhtoon Khawa youth fired pistols and police retaliation left several persons wounded.

In the Sind capital of Karachi, police used tear gas and clubs to quell a stone-throwing mob that had assembled after the Friday congregation in city's Lyari ghetto area.

MRD workers continued to volunteer themselves for arrest as part of ongoing protest in the interior of Sind, but no violent incident was reported.

Press Note Issued on Clash in Quetta 7 October

BK080938 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Text] A press note issued by the Quetta district magistrate says that in the city of Quetta a group of about 150 people closed the door of the Jami's Mosque after the Friday prayers yesterday and started raising objectionable slogans inside. They also started throwing stones from within the mosque, severely injuring a police constable. After this, a large number of people equipped with (?firearms) came out of the mosque and tried to form an illegal procession. The law enforcement agencies tried to prevent them from indulging in illegal activities, but they did not pay heed to the repeated warnings and attacked the police.

The press note adds that the miscreants dispersed following the use of teargas shells by the police (?trucks), but gathered once again at the Iqbal highway where the police again had to use teargas shells. The violent crowd began to disperse, but in the meantime it started firing on the police, injuring one police subinspector and seven pedestrians. One of the injured later succumbed to his injuries. The press note further says that the police resorted to firing in self-defense and to save the lives of peace-loving citizens. The violent crowd then dispersed. Thirty-nine people have been arrested. Authorities are investigating the incident.

AFP: 15,000 Reportedly Witness MRD Member's Arrest

BK0s1659 Hong Kong AFP in English 1653 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 8 (AFP) — Some 15,000 persons gathered in the major Punjab city of Faisalabad today to witness the voluntary arrest of a member of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), a well-informed source said here today.

Police arrested six demonstrators and used clubs to disperse small opposition groups who threw stones at shops that remained open.

It was the second instance in which more than 10,000 persons defied martial law and gathered in the industrial city to watch voluntary arrests since the MRD's anti-government campaign began.

Voluntary arrests — in which opposition members turn themselves in to police — have occurred almost daily over the past eight weeks in other Punjab cities,including the capital of Lahore, have barely attracted more than several hundred people.

In Sind Province, students in Sakrand, central Sind, held a demonstration, but there were no major incidents to break a four-day calm.

Demonstrations Reported in 'Several Sind Towns'

BK091718 Hong Kong AFP in English 1710 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 9 (AFP) — Paramilitary troops joined police to remove barricades on the Sind-Baluchistan highway today as protest demonstrations against military rule in Pakistan erupted in several Sind towns after several days of relative calm, reports reaching here said. The protestors hurled rocks at police, who fired tear gas shells and used batons to disperse several crowds, reliable sources said.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Announces Setup of 2 Top-Level Bodies

BK101235 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 10 Oct 83

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 10 (AFP) — Military ruler Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad yesterday announced the formation of two top-level bodies with himself as chairman to implement his government's 18-point socio-economic and political programme.

Political observers here saw the move as a step towards the forming of a fully-fledged political party, leading to Gen. Ershad seeking election as president.

The 53-year old general, who came to power in a bloodless coup in March last year, has on many occasions in the past said that he might enter the political arena, but insisted that he would only do so after he was out of uniform.

Political parties and alliances demanding an end to martial law have also urged Gen. Ershad to retire from the army before becoming involved in active politics.

Gen. Ershad, who is armed forces commander-in-chief, has described the 18 point socio-economic and political progrmme as "a charter for the people's emancipation" and said that it enjoyed the support of the nation.

Opposition leaders last week welcomed the programme, but cautioned against too large a role in it for the military.

The announcement, which gave no name for the bodies, said Gen. Ershad would be chairman of both the Central Executive Council and the Central Working Council. They will begin work immediately, it added.

Naval Chief Rear Admiral M.A. Khan and Air Force Chief Vice-Marshal Sultan Mahmud — who are also deputy chief martial law administrators — will be vice-chairmen of the councils, the announcement said. Rural Development and Religous Minister Mahbubur Rahman will be general secretary.

The councils include three ministers — Home Minister Major General Abdul Mannan Siddique, Food Minister Air Vice-Marshal (RTD) Abdul Gaffar Mahmood and Agriculture Minister Obaidullah Khan — and the chairman of the Freedom Fighters' Organisation, Zakir Khan Chowdhury.

Gen. Ershad has rejected opposition demands for parliamentary elections by next year, although local elections from December 27 leading to a national election in 1985 have been announced.

The martial law administrator is due to leave for Washington on October 22 to meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

SRI LANKA

ROK President's Visit 'Postponed Indefinitely'

BK091309 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka W.T. Jayasinghe and the South Korean Embassy in Colombo have confirmed that the visit of President Chon Tuhwan to Sri Lanka has been postponed indefinitely.

Foreign Minister Briefs UN Secretary General

BK081116 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Text] The UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, has assured the minister of foreign affairs, Shahul Hameed, that he would personally follow closely the situation in Sri Lanka. The secretary general also assured the minister of the assistance of the United Nations.

At a meeting at the United Nations, Mr Hameed briefed the UN chief on the situation in Sri Lanka. Our country appreciates the cooperation extended by the prime minister of India in trying to find a solution to the ethnic problems in Sri Lanka. The foreign minister said that at the same time Sri Lanka was shocked and surprised at the behavior and conduct of some of the politicians in Tamil Nadu. Some of them in their speeches in the Indian parliament had called for India's military intervention. They have even advocated a Cyprus-type solution to the problem in Sri Lanka. The president and the government have reacted with caution and care and with a deep sense of responsibility.

Mr Hameed further told the secretary general that expressions of concern based on ethnic considerations could cause many serious problems to the international community. No country, he added, with land borders is free from concentrations of ethnic minorities. If we were to encourage the practice of supporting a cause on the basis of ethnic affiliations, we will be throwing half the world into turmoil.

The foreign minister noted that it was unfortunate that the two main political parties in Tamil Nadu should seek to better their political fortunes by hitching their wagons to the Tamil problems in Sri Lanka. He said that one party had even tried to launch a token invasion of Sri Lanka by using small boats.

Mr Perez de Cuellar thanked the minister for briefing him on the situation in Sri Lanka and expressed pleasure that the situation has returned to normalcy.

DAILY NEWS Views Antiseparatist Oath Legislation

BK0914l9 Colombo Daily News in English 3 Oct 83 p 1

[By J. de S. Kellapotha]

[Text] An amendment to the election law requiring all candidates standing at a by-election to subscribe to the anti-separatist oath or affirmation as set out in the seventh amendment to the constitution has been gazetted. The legislation, due to be presented in parliament shortly, is an amendment to the Ceylon (Parliamentary Elections) Order-in-Council of 1946.

This would checkmate TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] strategy of avoiding the oath by forcing by-election.

Under the fifth amendment to the constitution, any political party which held a parliamentary seat that had become vacant could force a by-election by not nominating a new MP for the vacancy within a thirty day period. The TULF planned to use this provision in the constitution to force by-election to seats their members will vacate by not attending parliament for a period of three months.

Already Trincomalee MP R. Sampanthan has vacated his seat and the TULF has not nominated a successor. Other seats in the Northern and Eastern provinces will similarly fall vacant in the coming weeks.

TULF leaders have said both at home and abroad that they do not intend subscribing to the anti-separatist oath. They would force by-elections in the seats they hold by not attending parliament and would run at the by-elections that would follow by the party not nominating new MPs to the vacancies.

Political observers said that it was clear that government would not permit such a situation and it was a foregone conclusion that the necessary amendments to ensure that candidates standing for election subscribe to the anti-separatist oath.

Political circles are watching for a possible legal challenge to the amending bill. It is likely that this matter is canvassed in court, source said. The amending bill has been gazetted under the direction of Prime Minister Premadasa.

Freedom Party Approves Constitutional Changes

BK0914l8 Colombo Daily News in English 3 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] The SLFP's [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] all island excecutive yesterday strengthened former prime minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike's leadership muscle by overwhelmingly approving changes in the party constiiution giving her substantial new powers.

It was apparent that the radicals, including Mrs. Bandaranaike's daughter, Chandrika, and her filmstar husband, Vijaya Kumaranatunge, had thrown in the sponge after battling to prevent the amendments going through.

They and their supporters abstained from the final vote. The tally therefore read 286-0, party sources said.

There was an early signal that Mrs. Bandaranaike and her loyalists were comfortably on top when an effort spearheaded by Mr. T.B. Ilangaratne, who recently quit the position of SLFP deputy leader, to stall the constitutional amendments for three more weeks was defeated by 247 votes to 72.

"The writing on the wall was very clear by then. Mrs. Bandaranaike obviously commanded a large majority," a party source said.

Under the amended constitution, the party president will enjoy various appointive powers including those of picking electoral organisers and nominating nine members to the 21 member central committee.

Although some of the dissidents, including Chandrika Kumaranatunge who made a spirited hour long speech, argued that these changes were unnecessary, Mrs. Bandaranaike's position that the leadership needed adequate power to effectively guide the destinies of the party won the day.

The radicals openly adopted the position that the whole exercise was paving the way "for cutting our throats."

The meeting continued at the SLFP's T.B.Jayah Mawatha (Darley Road) headquarters for over six hours yesterday. Lunch packets were distributed.

There were some heated exchanges including a scuffle between the rival groups at the end of the day, one source said.

Mrs. Bandaranaike indicated during the course of her speech that she is planning to go abroad shortly for medical treatment.

Under the changes that will now be adopted, the SLFP will abolish the position of deputy leader which, at least one speaker yesterday said, was the root of many of the party's problems.

Comments on Delivery of Super Etendards to Iraq

Paris Warned of Responsibility

LD081202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Text] Despite international protests against the policies pursued by the United States and its allies, particularly the Zionist leaders of the French Government, in connection with creating crises in the Middle East, according to some news agencies,France has already delivered its Super Etendard planes to Saddam and the planes are on their way to Iraq. We draw your attention to a report from Paris by the Central News Unit correspondent:

The international Zionist leaders and the arrogant world powers intend to equip the declining Ba'thist-Zionist Baghdad regime and to (?fan) the flames of the war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran by the pro-Aflaq Iraqi regime, thus preventing the progress of the Islamic Revolution and implementing their colonialist policies. Despite their awareness of the madness and insane intentions of the Baghdad dictator and their awareness of internal and international protests against the decisions and policies pursued by the French Socialist Zionists, according to some reports in Paris, the five French Super Etendard planes, which had been stationed at the French port of [word indistinct], have taken off for Iraq.

Although this report has not been officially confirmed by the French Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of War, nevertheless French radio, which in a way is the mouthpiece of the French Government, last night and up to the time of this dispatch — quoting an American-Zionist news agency — has announced that French pilots will fly the planes up to a point in the Mediterranean, where Iraqi pilots will take over and will fly the planes to Iraq.

It should be pointed out that, following the French authorities' line, the French media have so far remained silent on this matter. Political sources in Paris believe that — just as the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials and senior figures have already declared — if the further equipping of Saddam with new French war equipment leads to further aggravation of the situation in the region, then it is the Paris authorities who will have to accept direct responsibility.

France Criticized

LD091207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Text][Passage indistinct]Sadeq Khalkhali, deputy for Qom, was the final speaker in today's Majlis open session. Commenting on the delivery of Super Etendard planes by the French Socialist Government to the Iraqi Zionist regime, he said: This is not the first time that France has become involved in the war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: The Mitterrand government has resorted to similar subterfuges in the past in order to improve the bankrupt French economy and inflation and unemployment in France at the cost of the blood of Middle East nations.

However, we will demonstrate that where Mitterrand belongs is where Napoleon ended and then expired. The deputy for Qom emphasized: The fate of our nation is in its own hands; the supercriminals, resorting to such puppet shows, will never be able to achieve anything. The Persian Gulf's jugular vein is controlled by our hand; we are determined to live and to control our own future. He added: The day when the fate of the Middle East and Iran was controlled by America is over. It will never be able to shake our nation's will by committing such crimes.

In conclusion, he raised the questions concerning high prices,inflation, hoarding and the need to combat them decisively. He then cited the needs of his constituency.

'Prepared Retaliatory Blow' Noted

LD091338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1140 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to reports by AFP and AP, last Friday five Super Etendard planes took off from a military base in western France to be delivered to the Iraqi Zionist regime. They are to be handed over to Iraqi pilots somewhere in the Mediterranean. The report has neither been confirmed nor denied by French authorities. According to military experts, the Super Etendard planes are not actually very effective militarily, as they are old and worn out. What the West intends to achieve is to get psychological mileage from it by means of extensive propaganda.

The sale of Super Etendard planes by France to the Iraqi Zionist regime stems from the belief that the presence of such weapons in the Iraqi-imposed war theater would help the aims of Western imperialism within the context of its long-term interests in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. In the same way, the French Socialist government views the Super Etendard planes as a weapon able to compensate for the repeated defeats suffered by the Iraqi mercenaries in their aggressive operations against the combative Iranian Muslims. The fact of the matter is that one ought to view these planes as the last hope of Western imperialism to save the Iraqi Zionist regime; for imperialism, counting on quantitative assessments, relies on the definitive operational aspect of these aircraft, believing that Super Etendards will definitely be able to end the Iraqi-imposed war on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The fact, however, is that the French Super Etendard aircraft will not be able to end the war, a war started by imperialism, just as all the complex weapons delivered to Iraq over the past 3 years of war by the East and the West have failed to realize imperialist objectives. Consequently, imperialism must bear in mind that, just like the Mirages, Phantoms, and MIG's, the Super Etendards cannot be a definitive factor in the achievement of any imperialist and Zionist objective, because the Islamic Republic of Iran and the combative Iranian Muslims advance and progress on the basis of principles which are beyond any quantitative assessment of issues. Therefore, if Western imperialism considers the Super Etendard planes as devastating weapons capable of dealing decisive strikes and, accordingly, hopes to end the war in the Persian Gulf and save the mercenary Iraqi regime, then

imperialism must bear in mind that under such circumstances it is using these planes to foil its own objectives, as the Persian Gulf will be engulfed by a crisis.

The fact is that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the key to the security of the Persian Gulf; it has so far adhered to its Islamic mission in safeguarding the security of this strategic region. Based on the nature of the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran avoids creating crisis and avoids encompassing tensions created by other nations. On the other hand, in accordance with its Islamic precepts, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to counter and resist any aggression. Having said that, should imperialism try to use the Super Etendard aircraft as a tactical weapon to secure its arrogant strategic objectives and, in the midst of all these, inflict blows on Iran's vital resources, then the Islamic Republic of Iran will turn the Strait of Hormuz into a quagmire for the West's imperialist objectives; for the security of the Persian Gulf is a uniform concept that encompasses the security of all littoral states. Therefore, if imperialism intends to engulf the Islamic Republic in crises by dealing blows to the vital interests of Iran, thereby securing its arrogant interests in the region, then the Persian Gulf will become the center of a crisis where imperialism and its toadies will sink.

The Islamic Republic president, commenting on this point, says: Not only will we not be intimidated by the threats made by the big powers and will not stop our progress, we have a prepared retaliatory blow against any of their crimes.

Western Media Scored

GF091618 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA — The loudspeaker of colonialism and its agents throughout the world especially in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf quoted Radio France as announcing the flight of the Super Etendard aircraft from their base in west France. The head of the Socialist-Zionist Government of France, Mitterrand shamelessly unveiled his stand to the world through his trip to the occupied Quds and Beit-ul-Moqddas, thus gaining the disgrace of being the first president of an European country to recognise the city as the capital of the usurping Zionist regime. Later on the strengthening of relations between French Government and the brutal regime ruling in Iraq as well as the disgraceful position taken by Mitterrand towards the Islamic liberation revolution was not unexpected but seemed natural.

Now according to the latest reports, the French Super Entendard aircraft were flying towards Iraq. Although the official authorities of the French Socialist-Zionist Government declined to confirm it, depending on the reaction of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the other hand, the imperialist loudspeakers and those of their allies were deceitfully trying to force the Islamic Republic [to] show a reaction contrary to its primary and principal position. These loudspeakers always broadcast the report on the delivery of these airplanes to Iraq in an equivocal way saying, it is said they were flying towards Iraq and constantly editorializing that Iran had threatened to close the Hormuz Strait in case the aircraft were delivered. This is while, the Islamic Republic authorities led by Imam Khomeyni had reiterated, particularly in their recent official statements that the Hormuz Strait would be closed if Iran's oil exports would be blocked. However, the colonialist media intended to provoke Iran.

In this connection, the BBC radio which broadcast reports on the Iraqi missile attacks upon the innocent and defenceless civilians in the southern and western cities of Iran at most in three or four news programmes only in English language, covered the said report which is nothing more than a mere psychological propaganda warfare, for 24 hours in all its news sections which are usually repeated every hour.

The Voice of America like its English ally repeated the news together with distortion of Iran's stance during more than 24 hours.

The preliminary procedures that the oppressive media are following in broadcasting this report proved the fact that the rehabilitation of military, political and economic power of the Iraqi regime was impossible without utilising deceitful and psychological propaganda procedures by superpowers.

Saddam's masters are well aware that the determining factor in the battle scene was the faith of Islamic combatants and no psychological and propaganda trick would save the crumbling regime of Saddam whose downfall is certain.

French Official Quoted

LD091748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Text] While news of the departure of the Super Etendard planes from their base in the west of France to Iraq — which was announced by the French radio in a vague manner and quoting informed sources — is still being talked about by imperialist organs and their agents, so far the authorities of the Socialist-Zionist Government of France have not been able to confirm or deny the news.

Meanwhile, according to AFP, the former French minister of external relations, referring to the delivery of the Super Etendard planes to Iraq, stated today: The remarks made by Ayatollah Khomeyni, that if Iran's interests in the region are threatened Iran will stop the delivery of oil to the West by blocking the Strait of Hormuz, should be taken seriously. He added: I can understand that we should be concerned about the stability of Iraq, which is a major issue for our interests in the region. But, if the oil route is blocked, Europe will be completely paralyzed.

Gulf Security Discussed

GF101315 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The French Government has delivered the Super Etendard planes to the idiots in Baghdad in the midst of a media uproar. Fortunately, the Islamic Republic Government announced its

view on this deal months ago and said literally that the internationally arrogant countries, especially France, should bear all consequences for this crazy act.

The internationally arrogant countries believe that supplying Iraq with more modern weapons will weaken our confrontation with the Saddamist regime, the stepchild of international infidelity, but our revolutionary belief has proved that we are committed to principles and it is not possible to give up these principles, whatever the price. We told the whole world that we are the victims of a tyrannical aggression and our approval of a cease-fire is imposed and is considered a present which we will deliver to those who attacked us, destroyed our towns and villages, violated our holy places, and killed our youths, women, and children. We will not present such a present to Saddam no matter what difficulties we face. If the magazine *Al-Hawadith* which is financed by some reactionary countries in the region thinks that it is revealing a secret when it said in its recent issue that revolutionary Iran will end the stability in the Gulf; it is mistaken.

We have announced more than once that the key to the Gulf's security is in our hands. We have protected the Gulf's security and the security of its navigation. The Gulf concerns us as it concerns the rest of the region's peoples, but it is not logical that this Gulf will be secure for the others and not safe to us. If Saddam commits any stupidity which effects our oil installations, we will close down the Gulf and stop the flow of oil to Europe, Japan, and the United States.

We believe that we have given our excuses to the world and if the world wants to stop the decline of Western civilization, then let it stop Saddam, because if our oil exports are stopped, we would not lose anything by closing the Gulf.

Aircraft Arrival in Baghdad Reported

GF101332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Oct 83

[Excerpts] According to an AFP dispatch quoting informed sources in the Socialist French Government, the five Super Etendard aircraft delivered to Iraq arrived in Baghdad yesterday afternoon. Claude Cheysson, foreign minister of the Social-Zionist French Government, while avoiding any comments about the whereabouts of the Super Etendards, told correspondents: Do not expect me to tell you anything about the aircraft. If France does not give arms to Iraq, the Soviet Union will.

The famous Zionist and former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac who is currently mayor of Paris in an interview said: The delivery of Super Etendard aircraft to Iraq is unavoidable. The interest of France and the Western world is not served if the Islamic Revolution of Iran achieves victory over Iraq.

AFP, also quoting political sources in Washington, reported that after 3 years of war with Iran, Iraq is in a very difficult position. American officials are afraid of the increase in the power and expansion of the Islamic Republic and Revolution and are concerned about their actions increasing the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

The former French President Giscard d'Estaing in an interview stressed that even though Iraq must be protected against a defeat at the hands of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the dangerous action taken by France in delivering the aircraft will cause another oil crisis for the West.

We remind you that in a recent speech the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, said that if any arms are used against the economic interests of the Islamic Republic then they [as heard] will not see the color of oil any longer and stressed that the Persian Gulf is in the hands of Iranians and should the United States attempt any action they will no longer see any oil.

Khamene'i Warns Those Supplying Missiles to Iraq

LD071412 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Excerpts] On the eve of Moharram, the month of blood's victory over sword, millions of our Muslim compatriots took part in the religion-political ceremonies of the glorious Friday prayers in the country today. Tehran University and its surrounding streets also today witnessed mass participation of the Muslim and revolutionary people of Tehran in the unifying ceremonies of the Friday prayers. This eternal Mohammedan tradition was held under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Friday imam of Tehran.

In his second sermon, Friday Imam of Tehran Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i referred to the imam of the nation's recent instructions to various strata of the nation and responsible officials: The important point is that we should note that the enemy intends to create discord among us and that if the enemy does not succeed in his intention he will try to pretend that discord exists among us. We must try to foil the enemy's conspiracies.

The Friday imam of Tehran called upon the mass media and the speakers and preachers to avoid divisive issues that create discord. He added: There is nothing wrong with people having different tastes, different views and opinions on various issues, but it would be wrong for these minor differences of opinion to lead to hostility. It would be wrong and unpleasant to sacrifice the major objectives or to forget the main aims due to minor differences. Without realizing, some individuals — being fond of a particular personality — magnify minor differences, and this is wrong. The imam's line instructs us to avoid discord and to remove existing discord.

Referring to the Iraqi Zionist regime's barbaric missile attack on residential districts in Dezful and Andimeshk, the Friday imam of Tehran and the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council made the following remarks:

[Begin recording] Unfortunately, this week we experienced the bitter incident of a missile attack on Dezful and Andimeshk. This was very bitter and tragic to us. We are not (?surprised) to see that this stupid Iraqi regime fires missiles. They have been doing so right from the start of the war. We are used to seeing them firing missiles. Of course, we have always felt sorry for those

brothers and sisters who are the targets of these cowardly acts. We are sad now too and, God willing,we will try to take revenge against this aggressive enemy. We are certainly going to do so. [shouts of "God willing"]

It is a pity to see that some people in the world, who do not consider themselves to be on the same level as this stupid and wicked regime, who on the contrary consider themselves to be politically experienced — it is a pity to see that they either witness this cowardly act in detachment without objecting or condemning it or that they even help it. It is now quite clear to us that the major powers and the two superpowers assist Iraq directly and indirectly. The missiles that are being fired on the people are certainly not made in Iraq. Where have they come from? Do the countries manufacturing these missiles realize the consequences of their actions? Do those who continuously place these means of killing innocent people in our secure cities at the disposal of these mad man realize the consequences?

The manufacturers of these missiles realize that we know them. I warn the manufacturers that these missiles do not only destroy the houses of our people, these missiles destroy the links between our nations and our countries. These missiles hurt and wound our people's national sentiments. By dispatching these missiles and putting them in the hands of these blood-sucking mad individuals, you gradually increase the impenetrable abyss between our two countries.

The nation of Iran cannot put up with this. The same applies to those who help with the delivery of these missiles to Iraq. I am astonished — and it is really a pity — to see that the major European powers and some governments in the region are not thinking of their own economic and political future. They have linked their future with that of a regime that certainly is not going to survive for long, one which is undoubtedly going to be annihilated. They do not think that millions of people in this country and many more in other countries condemn this crafty move, or that this is extremely harmful for their political future. We hope that our dear brothers and sisters in Dezful, Andimeshk, Marivan, Paveh, and all other cities that are under artillery fire or air attacks from our mad and aggressive enemy will rest assured that the brave warriors of Islam will avenge their suffering and take retaliation for it on the battlefronts. [shouts of approval,"God is the greatest"][end recording]

Finally, the Friday imam of Tehran, addressing our Muslim Arab brothers and sisters, read a sermon in Arabic.

Arabic Sermon

GF071650 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Friday Arabic sermon by President Seyyed 'ali Khamene'i during Friday prayers at Tehran University on 7 October — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to all brothers and sisters throughout the Muslim world and the Arab countries. Greetings to Arab brothers and sisters in Khuzestan. We are on the eve of the month of Moharram and the new year, the month of the victory of blood over swords. In this month the grandson of the prophet, may peace be upon him and his scion, arose in defense of divine teachings against those who trod upon these teachings. He was ultimately martyred by butchers and those who worship this world. Although this anniversary, the anniversary of blood and martyrdom, is coupled with great calamities and intense bitterness, it was also a successful and victorious movement led by Husayn ibn 'Ali. It became a starting point for the awakening of Muslims and their rebellion against tyrannical rulers and a source of inspiration for the movements [words indistinct].

Now, as the international oppressors are embarking on expansionist moves throughout the Muslim world and are bringing to their ranks all those who have (?power) in these regions we see the immortal lesson of Husayn ibn 'Ali emerging with greater clarity and vividness than at any other time. U.S. moves throughout the Muslim world must be resisted. We say this and urge everyone not to allow the United States to continue to impose its growing hegemony over the affairs and destiny of Muslims or exploit their vital material resources and increasingly lead them to subservience, weakness, corruption, and [word indistinct].

Lebanon is an important laboratory for these U.S. moves. We note that the Zionists and the Phalangists, supported by the United States, have committed enormous crimes and caused great catastrophes in that country. Their primary objective is to eradicate any movement that in any way threatens Zionist interests in Lebanon. Naturally, the responsibility falls on zealous Muslims to prevent the United States and Israel from creating another Israel in Lebanon.

In southern Lebanon we see the Zionists' [word indistinct] appear in the form of a series of conspiratorial moves. The people of southern Lebanon must be alert to these moves. The people of southern Lebanon, Sunnis and Shi'ites, should know that cooperating with and assisting the Zionist movement is prohibited and is a great sin in the eyes of God.

We see the very same U.S. plots implemented against us through the war of aggression launched by Iraq, a war whose third anniversary we commemorated a few days ago. The foolish and selfish rulers of Iraq have sparked this war by accepting the U.S. plan. To this day, they reject justice. Although we approve the decisive blows that are dealt by the valiant and faithful Muslims against the aggressors yet we hold the rulers of Baghdad responsible for every moment and day of this war, for it is they who have kindled it and are continuing it with the assistance they receive from both East and West.

Today, the Muslim world clearly holds the puppet rulers of Baghdad responsible for beginning the war. However, regrettably, a number of countries in the region are helping the aggressor without taking into consideration their political future or even the feelings of their Muslim peoples.

As we have repeatedly said, we have made our decision regarding such help and such disregard for the feelings of Muslims. We believe that divine care is our only protector in this war. God's

victory for the believers is at hand. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

President Receives Navy Commander 9 October

GF091632 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i and head of the Supreme Defence Council here today received commander of the navy, Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni. During the meeting the navy commander briefed the president of the activities of the navy in the Persian Gulf.

Majlis Speaker Says 'Statement Followed by Action'

GF071702 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA — The Majlis speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking to a group of staff of reconstruction jihad and Islamic associations of villages from Kerman and Gilan provinces, here Thursday, said that from the economic, defence, and natural resources point of view Iran was in an excellent condition. As a result of this strong status of Iran, the outside world knows that whatever statement is made by the Iranian officials, it has been followed by action.

He continued that as a result of this position, the French Government has toned down its propaganda campaign on the delivery of the Super Etendard planes to the Iraqi regime.

The Majlis speaker further told the visitors that there was so much to be done for the villages and added that the toppled former regime had refrained people from doing productive works and ignored the villages.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,483

LD071741 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,483 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Fighting in the form of exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued yesterday along all the western fronts from Piranshahr to the border fronts of Bakhtaran between the Islamic Combatants and the aggressor Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq. On each front, the Islamic combatants continued to consolidate their relevant positions, deploying patrols and firing in their defense; they obstructed the Saddamist troops' activities and movements. In halting the Iraqi troops' engineering activities and their fire, they inflicted losses and casualties on them. On the Marivan front, Islam's victorious soldiers fired on enemy positions and units at Panjwin and Rawshan, setting fire to several of the Iraqi troops' heavy vehicles carrying ammunition and killing a number of their occupants.

On the country's southern fronts, there were frequent and sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire between our triumphant forces and the defeated enemy; in continuing to consolidate their defensive positions, our forces opened fire with their heavy weapons, deployed patrols, and set up observation posts. They thus brought the enemy troops' activities and movements under their control and, by maintaining the upper hand, they halted the Iraqi troops' fire and prevented all operational activities.

The enemy losses observed on one of the southern fronts included the destruction of a number of personnel bunkers, weapons emplacements, and heavy mortar and more than 10 dead.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts,valiants of the Gendarmerie fired in retaliation on the enemy's positions and military installations across the Arvand Rud and succeeded in setting fire to and destroying more than five Iraqi weapons emplacements and killing or wounding several Iraqi troops.

Yesterday the city of Abadan was still under the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries' long-range and heavy weapons fire, which caused some damage.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,484

LD081746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,484 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Hail Moharram, month of myth, martyrdom, and dedication. Hail lord of martyrs, Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, and greeting to the followers of his school of thought, the mighty combatants of Islam.

The activities of the Islamic combatants yesterday in the border fronts of Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, Baneh, and Marivan continued by firing on Iraqi troop concentrations, supply routes, vehicle columns, and fortifications. The enemy's observed losses in those regions included two mortars and several trenches.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran yesterday, our forces defended their protective positions and regions and set on fire and destroyed an enemy truck carrying troops, a 106-mm gun, a field machinegun, and a supply bridge. Our forces also killed or wounded several Iraqi troops. In the Sumar region, the intensity of fire was high and an enemy patrol intending to infiltrate our defensive lines was brought under fire by the combatants of Islam. The patrol fled after sustaining casualties.

On the southern fronts yesterday, the valiant combatants of Islam neutralized all enemy activities. Exchange of fire across the Arvand Rud continued and as a result of firing by our combatant units enemy vehicle movements were brought to half and at least 15 Iraqi mercenaries were killed.

Yesterday, as a result of enemy long-range fire, four houses and shops in Abadan sustained damage.

During the past 24 hours, enemy reconnaissance flights and violations of the airspace of operational regions and few border towns were neutralized as a result of firing by air defense units and tactical operations of the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,485

LD091816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,485 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The conditions on the fronts of the imposed war and the battles of the combatants of Islam are brought to the attention of the dear compatriots.

Yesterday, sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between our proud combatants and the aggressor enemy on the Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, Baneh, and Marivan fronts. They were more intense in the Darband sector. Our combatants continued to strengthen their defensive positions, brought enemy positions and units under fire, and dispatched patrol groups to the defensive sectors of the Saddamist forces, keeping their movements under observation and inflicting losses and casualties on them. In the Hajj 'Umran sector, our forces prevented the movement of enemy vehicles and destroyed a 106-mm gun.

On the Marivan front, our forces brought enemy positions near Panjwin and (Valiyaghi) under fire, destroying several enemy weapons' emplacements, and set fire to a number of enemy supply vehicles, inflicting considerable damage to an enemy supply column. They also brought enemy bases in the Baneh sector under fire, destroying more than 30 percent of the enemy bases in that sector.

On the Bakhtaran border fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire continued between our forces and the enemy. They were more intense in the Qasr-e Shirin sector. On these fronts, while defending their relevant positions and sectors, the combatants of Islam opened artillery and heavy weapons' fire and dispatched patrol groups, keeping enemy movements and engineering activities under control, destroyed an ammunition dump and several machinegun and other heavy weapons emplacements of the Saddamist mercenaries, halted enemy engineering activities, and destroyed two enemy trucks together with a number of their personnel.

On the southern fronts, the combatants of Islam continued to defend their lines while mounting operations. They brought enemy positions and fortifications under artillery and heavy weapons' fire, inflicting losses and casualties on the enemy. In that sector, by dispatching patrol groups and erecting observation posts, our forces kept enemy movements under surveillance and neutralized all enemy operations and engineering activities.

Yesterday, as usual, Abadan was brought under long-range enemy fire, resulting in damage to parts of the city's installations. During the past 24 hours, the defenders of the skies of our Islamic homeland repulsed all enemy attempts at aerial aggression.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,486

LD101736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,486 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday in the Marivan operational zone, as the result of the heavy fire of the forces of Islam over enemy positions, a number of enemy trucks, one engineering vehicle, and a number of slit trenches and observation posts were destroyed and a number of Saddamists were killed. In the Baneh operational zone, our fighters opened fire over enemy mortar positions and enemy supply routes, thereby stopping enemy movements and damaging a number of their mortars. In heights overlooking Darband, the movement of enemy vehicles and infantry units was observed and their movements were stopped as the result of fire by our forces. In the Bakhtaran border fronts, 6 engineering vehicles and 2 trucks were destroyed and at least 15 enemy personnel were killed. In the Sharhani region, our forces opened fire over enemy heavy and light vehicles; losses and casualties were inflicted on the mercenaries. In the Zubaydat region, one enemy tank was set on fire.

As the result of the exchange of fire on the banks of the Arvand Rud, while stopping the movement of Saddam's forces on the Faw-Basra axis, 5 enemy slit trenches and foxholes were destroyed and more than 10 enemy personnel were killed or wounded.

The residential parts of Abadan again yesterday came under enemy long-range weapons fire, as the result of which four buildings were damaged.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran